



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

Public Health
Practice

Centers for Public Health Preparedness



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Establishes National System of Centers for Public Health Preparedness
to Strengthen the Front Line Against Health Threats

<http://www.phppo.cdc.gov/workforce>

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The health of America's communities hinges on the expertise of the national public health workforce--an estimated 500,000 physicians, nurses, environmental health scientists, health educators, laboratorians, managers and others practicing on the front lines of public health. In response to the 1997 report *Public Health Workforce: An Agenda for the 21st Century* issued by the Health and Human Service, Public Health Functions Committee, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) initiated a national system of **Centers for Public Health Preparedness (CPHP)** to ensure that frontline public health workers have the skills and competencies required to effectively respond to current and emerging health threats.

ACADEMIC CENTERS are cornerstones of the CPHP system and link schools of public health, state and local health agencies, and other academic and community health partners to foster individual preparedness at the front line. Descriptions of activities conducted at the seven recently funded centers include:

- **University of Illinois at Chicago School of Public Health: Illinois Center for Public Health Preparedness** offers several public health courses in addition to an introductory *Public Health 101*. The Center makes courses available statewide via the Internet; provides online instruction for public health administrator certification; and initiates certificate programs for community health improvement specialists and other areas of practice identified as priorities in state needs assessment surveys. <http://www.uic.edu/sph/prepare>
- **University of North Carolina (UNC)-Chapel Hill School of Public Health: North Carolina Center for Public Health Preparedness** collaborates with the UNC Center for Infectious Diseases and other partners to implement new training programs around emerging infectious diseases and bioterrorism. Applied research and workforce-training programs have been implemented in four demonstration counties in North Carolina. The Center serves five southeastern states including North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia. <http://sph.unc.edu/nccphp>
- **University of Washington School of Public Health and Community Medicine: Northwest Center for Public Health Preparedness** leads in providing ongoing training in public health preparedness and injury prevention to state and local health professionals in six states (Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming) which represent 31% of U.S. land mass and cover three time zones. <http://healthlinks.washington.edu/nwcphp>
- **Columbia University (CU) Mailman School of Public Health: Center for Public Health Preparedness** partners with the New York City Department of Health (NYC DOH) to design and implement model curricula for public health practice. Using "emergency preparedness" as a framework, the Center focuses on infectious diseases, bioterrorism, and emergency situations specific to urban centers. The *Basic Emergency Preparedness for Public Health Nurses* course has been expanded to include NYC DOH staff. CU and NYC DOH are collaborating to advance the development and implementation of an emergency preparedness plan. <http://cpmnet.columbia.edu/dept/sph/CPHP/index.html>
- **University of Iowa (UI) College of Public Health: Iowa Center for Public Health Preparedness** employs a six-part strategy for improving the preparedness of the public health workforce in Iowa and rural America, which includes distance learning, curriculum development, and periodic evaluation. The Center offers courses for emergency medical responders, public health nurses, laboratorians, and environmental health specialists. Partners include Iowa Department of Public Health, Iowa Emergency Management Division, Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine, and UI Hygienic Laboratory. <http://www.public-health.uiowa.edu/icphp/index.html>
- **University of South Florida (USF) College of Public Health: Florida Center for Public Health Preparedness** in partnership with the Florida Department of Health and other USF programs offers teleconferences and training programs in management and leadership, including disaster management. The framework for designing, delivering, and evaluating Center programs is the *Florida Public Health Workforce Development Plan* modeled on CDC's *Strategic Plan for Public Health Workforce Development*. The Center develops public health preparedness training programs to strengthen the capacity of Florida's public health management workforce. <http://www.phllr.us.vu/fcphp>
- **Saint Louis University School of Public Health: Heartland Center for Public Health Preparedness** in collaboration with the Missouri Department of Health and academic and practice partners in the Heartland Region develops capacity in support of national efforts in workforce competency development focused on public health leaders. <http://www.slu.edu/colleges/sph/bioterrorism/internet/centers.htm>

SPECIALTY CENTERS of the national system of **Centers for Public Health Preparedness** focus on a topic, professional discipline, core public health competency, practice setting or application of learning technology. The four recently funded centers are:

- **Dartmouth College Medical School Interactive Media Laboratory: *Collaboratory in Applied Communications Technology*** provides specialized knowledge, research, educational and production support in computers and Internet applications for professional education and training in public health. <http://iml.dartmouth.edu/education/index.html>
- **Saint Louis University School of Public Health: *Center for the Study of Bioterrorism and Emerging Infections*** provides a comprehensive and coordinated training and preparedness program across the full continuum of public health activities in the U.S. to protect Americans from both the intentional use of biological agents and naturally-occurring emerging infections. <http://www.bioterrorism.slu.edu>
- **Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and Georgetown University Law Center: *Center for Law and the Public's Health*** designs, develops and delivers training for public health practitioners, lawyers, and policy-makers to develop core competencies and specialized skills in the use of law as a public health tool. <http://www.publichealthlaw.net>
- **University of Findlay National Center of Excellence for Environmental Management: *Center for Public Health Preparedness*** develops and produces emergency response training for acts of terrorism involving nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons of mass destruction or bioterrorism. The Center offers hands-on, practice-based education through tabletop training exercises, on-line classrooms, and consultative services for hospital emergency room personnel, doctors, nurses and administrators serving underserved populations. In offering this all-hazards approach, the frontline will be prepared to respond in an community-wide, coordinated, and integrated approach for any naturally-occurring disease outbreak or emerging public health threats. <http://www.UFCTP.org>

LOCAL EXEMPLAR CENTERS develop advanced applications at the community level in three areas of key importance to preparedness for bioterrorism and other urgent health threats: integrated communications and information systems across multiple sectors, advanced operational readiness assessment, and comprehensive training and evaluation. These Centers work in collaboration with a variety of public and private partners at the local, state, and national levels, as well as, with the other academic and specialty centers.

- **DeKalb County Health Department: *Center for Public Health Preparedness*** (Decatur, GA) continues to implement and test reliable communications systems; develop and test applications for field investigations and information sharing, including electronic disease reporting systems; evaluate preparedness through field and tabletop exercises; and train public health personnel, local health department staff, and relevant partners in bioterrorism preparedness and response. <http://dekalbhealth.net/bt/bt-home>
- **Denver Public Health: *Center for Public Health Preparedness*** (Denver, CO) continues to establish an active electronic syndromic surveillance system that analyzes data, produces reports, and alerts key emergency response system personnel; implement and test handheld devices for surveillance and information sharing purposes; address gaps in planning and response identified through the TOPOFF, a national bioterrorism preparedness exercise experience; and develop web-based training modules for bioterrorism preparedness and response. <http://www.denverhealth.org>
- **Monroe County Health Department: *Center for Public Health Preparedness*** (Rochester, NY) continues to develop and test applications that address syndromic surveillance; provide a platform for secure communications and information dissemination; gain expertise in the area of tabletop and field exercise design and development; and develop web-based training modules for bioterrorism preparedness and response. <http://www.co.monroe.ny.us/health>